

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 162

By Shepard

A RESOLUTION to commend Kenneth K. Mitchell for his honorable and astute service to the young people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth K. Mitchell is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as an agricultural educator, Kenneth Mitchell has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, born in Union County, Mr. Mitchell was reared in Anderson County and worked in the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression; he studied Agriculture Education at Norris High School in Anderson County before serving for 37 months overseas during World War II with the 787th Military Police Battalion; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Mitchell taught Veteran Agriculture classes at Norris High School from 1947 to 1949, and graduated from the University of Tennessee's College of Agriculture in 1951; and

WHEREAS, in pursuing his lifelong passion for educating youth in the science of agriculture, Kenneth Mitchell has served in many capacities: he taught Agriculture at Norris High School and Dickson High School, was a member of the State Department of Education from 1961 until his retirement in 1990, served as Director of Secondary Programs for Vocational Education from 1987 to 1990, and was appointed to the State Council on Vocational Education in 1996; and

WHEREAS, one organization close to Mr. Mitchell's heart is the FFA, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America; he served as State Advisor for FFA from 1961 to 1987, and was

instrumental in organizing the Tennessee FFA Foundation, Inc.; he served as Executive Director from 1990 to 2000, and he continues to serve as a liaison between the Tennessee FFA, the National FFA, and the International Student Exchange Program, working with students from England, Scotland, Wales, Holland, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Russia, Japan, and Australia; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Mr. Mitchell has been the recipient of the Honorary State and Honorary American Farmer Degrees, the Outstanding State Supervisor of Agriculture Education in the United States Award, the National FFA VIP Award, and the FFA Lifetime Achievement Award; he was also selected as *Progressive Farmer* magazine's Man of the Year for 1991; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mitchell has worked with thousands of young men and women who have developed into productive citizens who have assumed leadership roles in agriculture, education, business, industry, and government; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Mitchell is a vibrant member of the community; he is active in the Evening Rotary Club, along with several other social clubs, and he is a devout member of the First United Methodist Church, where he serves as teacher and coordinator of the Pioneer Class; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mitchell's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Mitchell is grateful for the love and support he receives from his wife, Edith; their two daughters, Kathryn Jones and Melanie Kay Gunter; and their two grandchildren, David Mitchell Jones and Eric Kendall Jones; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth K. Mitchell is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Mr. Kenneth K. Mitchell for his honorable and astute

service to the young people of Tennessee as an agricultural educator and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.